

# THE TOLLER

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## Our Washington News Letter

BY PAUL HANNA.

WASHINGTON—Do wage-earners benefit from a big export trade? What becomes of the fruits of industry above what wages will buy back? These and other pertinent questions fill the minds of honest economists as they view the industrial and financial wreckage caused by war.

At present every day's news is filled with facts which contradict the old "laws of sound business." At Washington nobody can be found who any longer attempts to explain the contradictions. There is only bewilderment, and hope that the world may somehow muddle through its welter of high prices, debt, taxation, falling exchange and worthless paper money.

Before looking abroad there is a condition at home worth mentioning. For a year past business men and politicians have been telling the working man that he must produce more. Figures were used to show that the demand for shorter hours could not be granted without slowing up production and further increasing prices on account of the shorter supply of commodities. All polite people grasped at that doctrine as an easy explanation of the high prices mystery.

Within the past fortnight, however, the drop in foreign exchange has brought an implied denial of the above argument. Hopeful leaders, from cabinet members down, are saying that prices will soon come down because vast stores of food, clothing and the like, which Europe can no longer buy, will be dumped on the home market at almost any hour.

This is taken as a confession that Americans have been paying terribly high prices because the export gambler was taking food out of their mouths and clothing off the backs and holding those necessities in storage to sell abroad for more than the people at home could pay. It indicates that with all the shortening of working hours in America, our farms and factories have still turned out a vast surplus for speculators to hold for sale to Europe.

And hopeful politicians declare high prices will end as soon as the American people are allowed to have a bigger share of their own excess products!

Crossing to France, we hear Minister of Commerce Isaac saying: "The only way to re-establish our credit is to increase our export trade. We must not allow the foreign market to be taken by others. Manufacturers must reserve a large part of their output for export."

But to that good old gospel — so familiar to Americans — another conservative French faction replies: "If we export more we will be shorter of supplies at home. We cannot be saved unless we produce more for ourselves and stop exporting so much."

Arguments, like the above are going on all over Europe. And the wage earners, it is reported, are learning from it all that goods shipped abroad are goods which labor has produced but is not permitted to consume. In "normal" times this process works smoothly enough; the workers being contented with their "living wage" and not caring what becomes of the surplus. But the workers of Europe have emerged from the war with a new interest in their work and what it is for.

Last summer the American railwaymen postponed their wage demands when the president gave a solemn promise that the government would leave nothing undone to bring down the cost of living. If they have been exerted, all the powers of the government have proved useless at that task. The masses know now that political promises do not lower the cost of living. The old arguments are all shattered by the facts.

## Another Week to Organize Your Study Class

For the purpose of allowing our readers more time in which to organize classes to take up the study of "Proletarian Science, An Economic Interpretation of History," by W. E. Reynolds, which will appear serially in The Toller, we have put off printing the first chapter until the next issue.

This gives you another week in which to complete your arrangements for taking up this interesting and instructive course in Proletarian Science.

Complete your arrangements this week. Be prepared to follow this entire course from the first chapter which will appear in our next week's issue.



The Snake in the Grass

## A Challenge He Won't Accept

LONDON — George Lansbury, editor of The London Herald, now in Moscow, last week wirelessly a challenge to Premier Lloyd George, to come to Moscow and join in his conference with Lenin.

"You are making the mistake of your life in your estimate of the soviet leaders," Lansbury told the premier.

"I beg of you to come here to Moscow and join in conference with Lenin. I am sure your eyes would be opened as soon as you crossed the frontier. The soviet leaders are first rate, clear headed, honest, and humane. It is to the interest of England and to the world to make peace with them without delay."

The London Herald contains Lansbury's challenge to Lloyd George and also gives an account of an interview Lansbury has had with Secretary Molotov, of the Federation of Russian Trade Unions, with the soviet government.

"The Russian trade unions," said the secretary, "are an integral part of the soviet organization. Their form in effect is that of one big union with many sections very similar to the British conception of industrial unions."

"Their chief function has been to organize the supply and distribution of labor and to control work shop organization. Their formation of industrial armies is in no sense militaristic. They are result of the desire of the rank and file themselves who cheerfully have realized that such an organization is the only way under conditions that have obtained to restore Russia economically."

Lansbury added with emphasis that the Bolsheviks have nothing whatever to hide. They understand their mistakes and openly acknowledge their failures, he said "they know that their friends will understand the obstacles they had to overcome. The diseases, starvation, and sufferings that have been endured, have been on an unequal scale but with it all the spirit of the people remains unbroken."

## QUERY OF "WHERE IS JOHN REED" ANSWERED

Shipped to Norway, Then Turned Stowaway.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 22.—John Reed friend of Lenin and Trotsky, who is under indictment in Chicago for alleged conspiracy to overthrow the United States government arrived in soviet Russia by way of Finland last December, it is learned. Since his indictment last month federal and Illinois state agents have been searching for Reed all over the United States. On being told of Reed's presence in Russia — it is not known yet whether he has left there — the state department was interested to learn the channel through which he obtained a passport. The department is informed that he shipped as a sailor from an American port to Norway. From there he traveled on foot to Stockholm. There he stowed himself away, or was stowed away, on a vessel about to sail for Helsinki, for.

## Narrowly Escapes Arrest.

Reed narrowly escaped arrest in Helsinki, but, but disguising himself as a Russian peasant, he crossed the frontier into Russia. He was received in Moscow as the official envoy of the American Communist Labor party. As such he attended the meetings of the third international and made a speech at the all-Russian soviet convention in the middle of December. In Moscow Reed lived at the Kremlin as the guest of the people's commissaires.

He was in constant communication with Lenin and Trotsky it is stated, and visited the Red army at the front. Reed was in Moscow until the middle of January. Of that the state department is quite certain. His reception in Russia was the warmer because two years ago Trotsky appointed him bolshevik consul general at New York.

Mr. Reed never assumed that office, for, as it turned out, the appointment was made to facilitate his return to the United States.

## An Appeal of the Checho-Slovak Social Democratic Women to the Women of All Nations.

Prague, December 24th. Women! The Russian Soviet Republic is oppressed with hunger and distress. Exhausted by the world war, distracted with inner conflicts, cut off by the rigid Entente blockade, the millions in Russia are suffering misery and horror. Mothers become insane when they look at their half-dead children; men in the desperate effort of saving their children, find themselves tempted to commit crimes — and the children, struck by the blighting frost, die like a young, tender crop.

The blockade, the wilful starvation of Russia, which is a terrible crime equal to that of war in its effects, is being perpetrated against millions of innocent men, women and children, a race with a high cultural mission, a people that has presented to us the most magnificent literature in the world, the greatest thinkers, the most self-sacrificing heroes of progress. Women! Call upon the conscience of your Governments, of your representatives in Parliament, of your labor leaders, demand the lifting of the blockade against Russia! Raise your voices for the protection of weeping mothers, dying children, men in despair. Protest against the blockade in the name of humanity!

You American, English, French and Danish women, should demand the opening of the boundaries and the sending of foodstuffs to Russia, which will also be done by the women of the Slavic nations, who have lived through the blockade of the world war and who know all its terrors. Citizens! Women! Show that you can unite a love and understanding of human misery with an abhorrence for violence, and devote your powers to the struggle for peace between nations, for the humanizing of civilization and for the lifting of the blockade. Russia is the advance-guard of Socialism, the bearer of the ideas and aims which we honor, and for that reason Russia must not starve! Demand the opening of the boundaries of our European states, for free trade with Russia! We must help the hungry; and we must also secure them peace, labor, and bread!

Committee of the Checho-Slovak Social-Democratic Women of Prague, Soviet Russia.

## Reds Better Americans than Prosecutors, Says Jane Addams

Jailed Agitators More True to Flag Than Men Who Raid Them,

Miss Jane Addams of Hull House, speaking yesterday afternoon in Recital Hall at the Auditorium Theater, (Chicago, Feb. 22) branded the activities of the federal government in the suppression and deportation of foreign-born radicals as a form of intolerance. She called the reds in jail and under suspicion more American in their basic ideas and thought than the agents of the government which is sending them to banishment.

These Socialists, Communists, members of the I. W. W., or whatever they may be, she said, are being persecuted for no other reason than that they represent the voice of the majority of the people and the constitutional right of free speech, free thought and free press.

## Suffrage Leaders Speak.

Miss Addams, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Miss Grace Abbott and other suffrage leaders spoke to more than 300 men and women as a part of the program of a school of political education being conducted during the convention of the National American Suffrage Association.

"This wholesale and so-called deportation of radical thinking and speaking peoples is very disconcerting to those working for the Americanization of alien-born citizens," said Miss Addams. "It is significant that since the so-called red raids began more than 1,500,000 aliens have applied for passports back to their native lands. They feel America no longer is a safe place to live."

## Trying to Deport Party.

"Hundreds of poor laboring men and women are being thrown into jails and police stations because of their political beliefs. In fact, an attempt is being made to deport an entire political party."

"These men and women, who in some respects are more American in ideals than the agents of the government who are tracking them down, are thrust into cells so crowded they cannot lie down. I know of one batch of radicals, thirty-two in all, who faced this situation in an American jail. They were huddled together like rats and treated as criminals because of their political opinions."

"And what is it these radicals

## PAPER SCARCITY

Scarcity of print paper compels us to issue a six column paper this week. We hope to revert to our usual 7 column size next week.

seek? It is the right of free speech and free thought; nothing more than is guaranteed to them under the Constitution of the United States, but repudiated because of the war.

## Dangerous Situation.

"It is a dangerous situation we face at the present time, with the rule of the few overcoming the voice of the many. It is doubly dangerous because we are trying to suppress something upon which our very country was founded—liberty."

"The government is proceeding on the theory that because these thinking aliens demand an end of class struggle and equal rights for all they are plotting to overthrow the United States. So it was said of suffrage years ago. Anything that is radically new to the established order of things is revolution in the eyes of many."

"But, I tell you, these radicals simply are struggling for equal rights; to down the spirit of intolerance which has crept into our government."

"They are proceeding as they are simply because in no other way can they gain attention."

## Speech a Safety Valve.

"The cure for the spirit of unrest in this country is conciliation and education—not hysteria. Free speech is the greatest safety valve of our United States. Let us give these people a chance to explain their beliefs and desires. Let us end this suppression and spirit of intolerance which is making of America another autocracy."

Carrie Chapman Catt was almost equally vehement in denunciation of what she termed the attempt of the federal government to curb free speech and free thought.

"If all the talk—even the pro-German talk—had been out in the open before and during the war, we would have had a chance to answer in the open and so clear away misunderstanding," said the suffrage leader. "As matters stand, there is danger we may lose what has been our proudest boast—our republican form of government."

## Rule of the Few Now.

"Because of the political corruption in the United States—corruption which began fifty years ago, and included the buying and selling of votes—we have come to a form of government that is not of a class or classes but a rule of the few."

## Bolshevik Policy in the East

### Talk with Lenin's Chief Lieutenant.

I had a long conversation to-day with Radek, formerly the Russian Soviet "ambassador" here, upon the "Red menace to India." Radek, one of Lenin's chief lieutenants, is in regular communication with Moscow and entitled to speak with authority.

"Press engineered" was his comment on the Red menace agitation, yet he added that it contained a mixture of truth in its untruth. Radek's knowledge of world affairs is almost a legend in Russia, and he showed what a great measure of truth the legend possesses as he rapidly passed his finger over the map of Asia and in quick sentences described the local situations. The Eastern world is in a state of ferment, but Soviet Russia, he affirms, is not responsible for the unrest, which is due partly to historical reasons, partly to "Entente Imperialism," and partly to the effect of the world-war. Thus, throughout the Far East prices have risen proportionately higher than in Europe.

Radek, mentioning other causes of trouble, said that Semenov's Cossacks in Mongolia were assisting the Mandarins against the famishing population. There was a popular movement in Persia directed against foreign domination. Of late a peasant land movement has arisen in Anatolia, to which the Young Turks were compulsorily adapting themselves. The Middle East, he added, was disturbed by British Admiralty designs on the oilfields within the stretch indicated by Bagdad-Khankin-Baku.

### "No Propaganda" Guarantees.

Radek admitted that emissaries from the whole East, Far, Middle, and Near, could be found in Moscow. It was natural enough, he said. The same phenomenon was observed at the time of the first Revolution, in 1905, which sent a similar wave across the Asiatic Continent. "Our attitude is simple," he declared. "We sympathize with these Eastern peoples, but we go no further. Soviet Russia has no Imperialist aim. Imperialism means either a desire for the subjection of other na-

tions by arms, or their exploitation in the interests of capitalism. Neither motive applies to Soviet Russia. Our aggressiveness is merely a newspaper invention. On the contrary, our one desire is for peace, Russia is ruined by lack of transport.

"But what of the invasion of India by propaganda?" I asked.

"The Russian Government conducts no such propaganda," answered Radek. "On the contrary, it is prepared to give to any country that established peaceful relations all conceivable guarantees. Of course, the march of ideas cannot be arrested, but we are ready to give guarantees that we shall use neither money nor agents, direct or indirect, for the conduct of propaganda in India or elsewhere in the British Empire. We have too great need for peace with England to haggle. We are under no illusions. British Imperialism is not merely a capitalist intrigue, but is rooted in the psychology of the masses. The British domination of India and Ireland is popular. If we desire the English masses to become Socialist we cannot do anything from outside. Salvation must come to the English proletarians and oppressed peoples of the Empire from

Continued on page 4th.

## Advance in subscription price

The subscription price of The Toller will be advanced to \$1.50 per year beginning April 1st.

We are compelled by the constantly rising prices of paper and general printing costs to make this advance.

A special opportunity will be given our readers until April 1st to renew their subscription at the old rate of \$1.00 a year. This opportunity is extended to all regardless of the time of expiration of their subscriptions. By order of the State Executive Committee.

## YOUNGSTOWN OPEN FORUM MEETINGS

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